

# Library Quarterly

**FALL 2022**

New director / p.1

3D Printing / p.4

Author Ruth Spiro / p.14



*the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library*

## **Get a library card**

Online at [VAPLD.info/card](http://VAPLD.info/card). Begin using your card number online as soon as you receive it in your email (usually within 24 hours).

## **Access your account**

Go to [VAPLD.info/account](http://VAPLD.info/account) and log in with your library card number and PIN (usually the last four digits of your phone number).

In the Vernon Library app: download for free in your app store.

## **Borrow**

To find books, e-books, audiobooks, movies, music, video games, and other materials available for checkout, go to [VAPLD.info](http://VAPLD.info)

To request materials for pickup from the library Holds shelves (default) or at the drive-up window, log in with your library card number and PIN, usually the last four digits of your phone number.

To find articles from magazines, newspapers, and journals, go to [VAPLD.info](http://VAPLD.info). Change the search box option from "Catalog" to "Articles" in the dropdown menu before you search.

## **Convenient book returns**

Return materials 24/7 at the library drive-up slot or in:

### **Buffalo Grove**

Grove Shopping Center  
197 McHenry Rd.  
northeast corner of Lake-Cook  
and McHenry roads

### **Long Grove**

Sunset Grove Shopping Center  
4190 IL Route 83  
southeast corner of Route 83  
and Aptakisic Road

## **Attend an event**

View upcoming lectures, discussions, classes, performances, and storytimes: [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar)

Events are free and open to all.

Signup is usually required; see individual event listings for details.

Closed-captioning is available for most online presentations; see individual event listings for details.

## **Board of Trustees**

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• p.13: *The Frame* by Frida Kahlo, Musée National d'Art Moderne • p.14: Ruth Spiro, courtesy of the author • p.17: Alina Celeste and Mi Amigo Hamlet, courtesy of the artists

## **Contact Us**

### **Main**

847-634-3650

### **Library cards, renewals**

224-543-1483

### **Text a librarian**

847-565-6457

### **Adult Desk**

224-543-1485

[adultdesk@VAPLD.info](mailto:adultdesk@VAPLD.info)

### **Youth Desk**

224-543-1486

[youthdesk@VAPLD.info](mailto:youthdesk@VAPLD.info)

### **Homebound Delivery**

224-543-1406

[senior@VAPLD.info](mailto:senior@VAPLD.info)

### **Email the director**

[director@VAPLD.info](mailto:director@VAPLD.info)

## **Stay up to date**

Sign up to receive occasional emails from the library:  
[VAPLD.info/subscribe](http://VAPLD.info/subscribe)

*This magazine is printed  
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# New library leadership

Please welcome new Library Director Anne Rasmussen, who will take the helm beginning in September.



Anne Rasmussen, MLIS, joins us from Milwaukee Public Library, where she most recently served as Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives and Public Services.

When former Library Director Cynthia Fuerst announced her retirement earlier this year, the Library Board of Trustees tapped executive search firm John Keister and Associates of Vernon Hills to help with their search for her replacement. Rasmussen was one of eight candidates interviewed from a large pool of applicants.

"We were looking for an innovative thinker who will help the library continue to meet the evolving educational, recreational, and social needs of our community," said Library Board President Marc Fenton. "Anne demonstrates the passion for librarianship and openness to new ideas that the board was seeking."

Our new director brings a strong track record of leadership, vision, and direction to the role. In her more than 20 years of service in libraries, she has distinguished herself as a mission-focused leader with an eye toward delivering thoughtful library services that advance civic well-being and connection.

"I am thrilled to serve as Vernon Area Public Library District's next director," said Rasmussen. "I look forward to learning from and listening to the community in order to best lead this stellar library forward."



**360+**  
courses to  
choose from

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**college  
instructors**  
who are  
experts in  
their field



Available  
**24/7**

Some classes  
can lead to  
**certification**



*by the numbers*

## GALE COURSES

Take a 6-week, instructor-led online class – free with your Vernon Area library card! Choose from tech topics, healthcare training, business and accounting, law, test prep, and other subjects. Get started at [VAPLD.info/GaleCourses](http://VAPLD.info/GaleCourses)

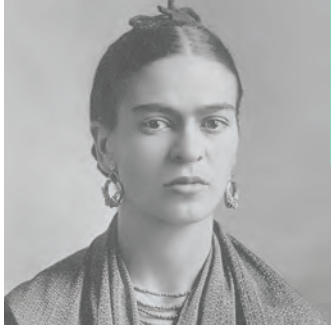
**New classes start  
each month**

Autumn start dates:  
September 14  
October 12  
November 16



**Top 20  
Most  
Popular  
Courses**

- Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2016
- Accounting Fundamentals
- Speed Spanish
- Grammar Refresher
- Discover Sign Language
- Medical Terminology: A Word Association Approach
- Beginning Writer's Workshop
- Intermediate Microsoft Excel 2019
- Stocks, Bonds, and Investing: Oh, My!
- Project Management Fundamentals
- Introduction to QuickBooks Online
- Drawing for the Absolute Beginner
- Keys to Effective Communication
- Computer Skills for the Workplace
- Introduction to SQL
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Mastering Your Digital SLR Camera
- A to Z Grant Writing
- Introduction to Python 3
- Introduction to Interior Design



# Hispanic Heritage Month



*This fall, join us in paying tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have influenced and enriched our culture through their contributions to art, music, and literature with a selection of library programming for kids and adults during National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15).*

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

The date of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

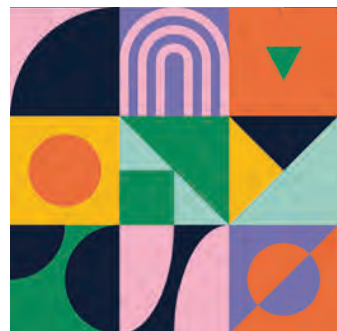
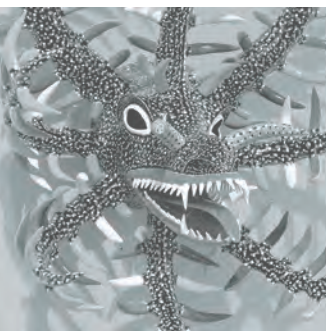
Join the celebration by stopping by the lobby display to select a book for kids or adults that honors Hispanic heritage. Look for a star ★ marking programs that celebrate the theme.

*Top left – Exploring Great Artists: Frida Kahlo, p.12*

*Top right – Book Discussion: In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez, p.10*

*Bottom left – Live Art Demonstration: Vejigante Masks, p.8*

*Bottom right – An evening with author Erika Sánchez, p.8*



# A creative sweet spot: 3D printing at your library

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When local business executive Holly Rifkind needed a product development power shot, her local library helped her set up a smashing success.

Rifkind and her husband, Seymour, are leaders in the fast-growing sport of Pickleball. Seymour is an international organizer and promoter; Holly leads the marketing end. Her extensive experience overseeing marketing and merchandising for Fortune 500 clients plus her passion for the sport means she generates almost unlimited ideas for Pickleball-related merchandise.

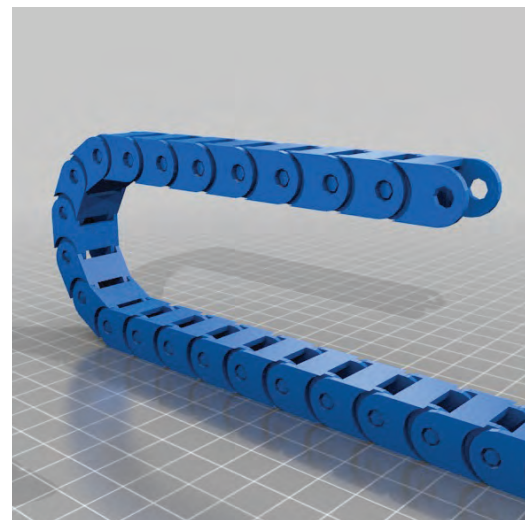
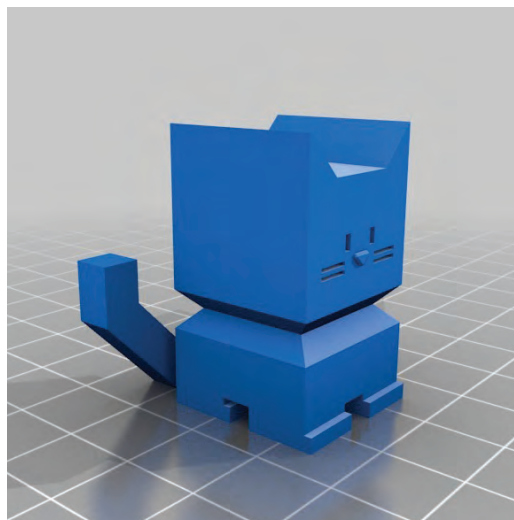
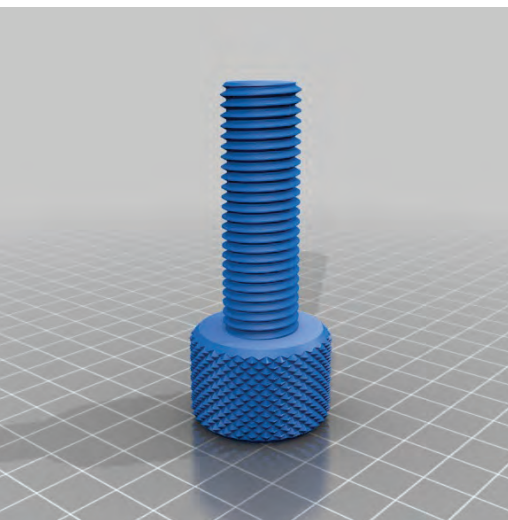
One such idea was a Pickleball-themed smartphone holder — an item she needed to invent. Noticing the 3D printer in the library lobby, Rifkind recognized the library could be the prototyping partner she was looking for. She joined a 3D printing class and connected with Instruction & Technology Librarian Donna MacCartney. Over the following weeks, they worked together to develop, test, and refine the design, then rallied to develop a second product, a Pickleball-themed drink cozie.

## Libraries and 3D printing

At their core, public libraries are about access — to knowledge, information, culture, and community. Today, that mission is widely understood to include access to tools and technology. Through media labs and maker spaces, tech classes and STEM Fairs, patrons now have more exciting opportunities than ever to learn and apply new skills.

“Libraries have been technology centers for decades,” said MacCartney. “People turn to the library for equipment they want to try but not buy. Years ago, that meant PCs or Internet access. Today, it means maker tech like 3D printers.”

Vernon Area entered the 3D printing arena in 2017, when a generous private donation allowed the library to acquire two 3D printers. In five years, patrons and staff have used the machines to create thousands of objects — some silly, like a “business tiara,” some serious, such as face shields for frontline workers at the start of the pandemic.





Whether practical, playful, or something in-between, every 3D print experiment is encouraged at the library. "Just trying the technology is a learning experience," MacCartney emphasized. "Seeing what is possible sparks new ideas. People get excited and inspired. Sometimes that spark turns into a long-term interest, a new product, or a career path."

## What is 3D printing?

3D printers work by melting and depositing plastic in layered cross-sections until a fully formed object is complete. Not sure what that means? Technology & Instruction Librarian Brianna Walker has a useful analogy: "It's like soft serve for plastic."

Observing a 3D printer in action, the similarity is apparent. Like a soft serve machine, the printer uses a nozzle that extrudes a gooey substance. But instead of ice cream, it pushes out a line of colorful plastic, and instead of filling a cone or cup, the nozzle and print bed zip around in a mesmerizing dance to draw complex shapes.

Each layer hardens as it cools, forming a foundation for the next layer. The build up of layers creates the object. The process can take anywhere from a few minutes to several hours depending on the size and complexity of the object.

## From mind to design

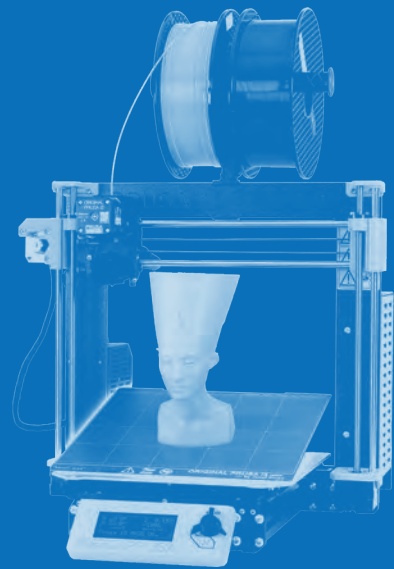
The process starts with a CAD (Computer-Aided Design) file in .STL (STereoLithography) format. This is a picture with instructions on how to print a design in three dimensions.

No technical skill is required to get started. Hundreds of free, ready-to-print files are available on Thingiverse, an online catalog of open-source, user-created digital designs. Vernon Area Library cardholders are invited to select an object and request a free print. Visit [guides.VAPLD.info/3D\\_printing](http://guides.VAPLD.info/3D_printing) for a step-by-step guide and request form.

To fully harness the power of 3D printing, the next step is to learn to create 3D models from scratch. Throughout the year, the library offers classes in Tinkercad, a 3D modeling program. Options range from Intro to 3D Printing to advanced techniques and engineering strategies. Online instruction is available anytime through LinkedIn Learning.

Library patrons can also tap tech librarian expertise for help refining or reengineering their object's design, as Rifkind did.

Whether fun or function, education or entertainment, the power of creation is available to anyone with a library card. Give it a try. Ball's in your court.



## What can you use 3D printing for?

Is there an object that would be fun or useful to you but isn't otherwise readily available? 3D print it!

### REPLACEMENT PART

Do you have an item that stopped working because a part is missing or broken? Print a replacement and make it whole again.

### MODIFICATION

Have you always thought that thing you own would be just a little better with one small change? Make a piece to modify it.

### PERSONALIZATION

Put a personal spin on an object, like a keychain with your unusual nickname or a wedding cake topper using characters from the couple's favorite fandom.

### INVENTION

Do you have an idea for something that doesn't exist yet? 3D print a prototype, then improve and iterate!

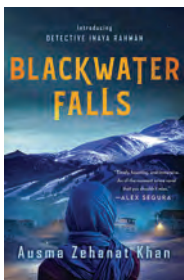
## RECOMMENDED READING

# Pick Your Poison



As the days get shorter and the cold weather starts to creep back in, it's the perfect time to curl up with a suspenseful or spine-chilling read. Whether you're an armchair sleuth or a heart-racing horror fan, there's something to fit your creepiness comfort level.

## Mystery & Crime



**Blackwater Falls**  
Ausma Zehanat Khan



**Dirt Creek**  
Hayley Scrivenor

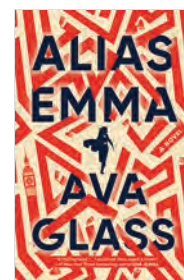


**Shutter**  
Ramona Emerson

## Thrillers



**The Last Housewife**  
Ashley Winstead



**Alias Emma**  
Ava Glass



**The Family Game**  
Catherine Steadman

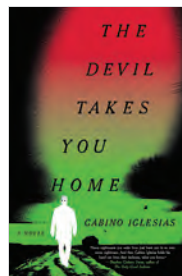
## Horror



**Jackal**  
Erin E. Adams



**Just Like Home**  
Sarah Gailey



**The Devil Takes You Home**  
Gabino Iglesias

## Genre-Defying



**Station Eternity**  
Mur Lafferty



**The Book Eaters**  
Sunyi Dean



**Even Though I Knew the End**  
C.L. Polk



## Featured Resources *for adults*



### WORLD LANGUAGE KINDLES

Check out an e-reader that is pre-loaded with popular books in Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Polish, Russian, and Spanish. Find the list of current titles on the card on the World Languages shelf or ask for help at the desk.



### FOUNDATION DIRECTORY ONLINE

Nonprofit leaders: Find funding for your projects using the same powerful grantmaker database used by professional fundraisers. This tool includes contact information and funding history for thousands of funders. Learn more: [VAPLD.info/FDO](http://VAPLD.info/FDO)



### WALL STREET JOURNAL ONLINE

Access business, financial and economic news paywall-free with your library card. Get a free, renewable digital pass to WSJ when you create an account and log in through the library portal. Browser access only. Start here: [VAPLD.info/WSJ](http://VAPLD.info/WSJ)

## Classes & Events *for adults*

Note location with each event (🏠 indoors, 🌳 outdoors, 📺 online). Some events offer both in-person and streaming options for attendance. Events may move indoors or to Zoom if required by weather or public health conditions. Free and open to all. Sign up (required) at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar) or call 224-543-1485.

### 'Art Isn't Easy': Stephen Sondheim

Music historian Susan Benjamin shares how Sondheim reshaped American musical theater with works from *West Side Story* to *Sunday in the Park with George*.

Wednesday, September 7, 1–2 pm 📺 🏠

### Art Workshop: Notecards with Recycled Materials

Supplies included. No art experience necessary.

Monday, September 12, 4:30–6 pm or 7–8:30 pm 🏠

### Financial Checkup for Retirees

Review helpful checklists to help assure your financial house is in order and provide peace of mind.

Tuesday, September 13, 6:30–8 pm 📺 🏠

### K-9 Demonstration with Buffalo Grove Police

Meet police dog Hogyn and learn how he works with Officer Danielle Baron to locate evidence and people. Adults only, please.

Thursday, September 15, 2–3:30 pm 🏠

### Jazz Concert with Petra van Nuis & Andy Brown

Two of Chicago's most beloved jazz musicians perform selections by Porter, Ellington and Gershwin.

Monday, September 19, 1–2 pm 🌳

### Blood Drive

Presented in partnership with Buffalo Grove Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Brad Schneider's office, Vernon Township, and Village of Lincolnshire. Signup is recommended; walk-ins will be accepted as availability allows.

Thursday, September 22, 12–5 pm 🏠

### Cuisine Quest: Southeast Asia and India

Explore the local markets and street food of Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and India in this vibrant travelogue with Brian Michalski.

Wednesday, September 28, 7–8 pm 📺 🏠



Concert: Singer-Songwriter Kraig Kenning

### An Evening with Author Erika Sánchez ★

Chicagoan and author of the award-winning teen novel *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* joins us to talk about her new memoir for adults, *Crying in the Bathroom*.

Thursday, September 29, 7–8 pm 

### Women & The Supreme Court of the United States

Professor of Justice Studies Tauya Forst discusses how the female Justices (just six in all) have shaped the bench.

Monday, October 3, 1–2 pm  

### Power of Attorney Information Session

Attorney Nicole Minnis explains how a POA document protects your property, medical, and financial affairs. Following this session, those who qualify based on income can sign up to get free legal help at a clinic on Nov. 1. For details, visit the library calendar online, call North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic at 847-737-4042 or email ProBono@NSLegalAid.org

Tuesday, October 4, 6:30–7:30 pm  


### Understand Your Medicare Options

Get a better understanding of the choices available to you during open enrollment. Benefits advisor Mike Altman provides an overview and answers your questions.

Thursday, October 6, 7–8 pm  


### Popup Maker Space

Make a fun project using library equipment. See the online calendar for details.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm   
October 13, November 10

### Live Art Demonstration: Vejigante Masks ★

Drop by to watch artist Juan Ramon, Jr. create a *vejigante*, a colorful paper-mache mask worn in Puerto Rican festival celebrations. For all ages.

Saturday, October 15, 12–2 pm  Library Café

### Avoid Identity Theft & Consumer Scams

This presentation from the Illinois Attorney General's office shares information about common scams and steps you can take to protect yourself.

Tuesday, October 18, 7–8 pm  

### Jazz, America's Indigenous Art Form

Deepen your appreciation for jazz with musician and professor Mark Tonelli. Presented by Illinois Road Scholars Speakers Bureau.

Thursday, October 20, 1–2 pm 

### Mobile Passport Services

Apply for or renew your U.S. passport. Passport pictures available, too. For detailed info about documentation, fees, and other requirements, visit [LakeCountyCircuitClerk.org](http://LakeCountyCircuitClerk.org). No appointment required.

Saturday, October 22, 9 am–1 pm 

### Building the Panama Canal

Professor Gary Midkiff illuminates the exciting story of how this strategic artificial waterway was built.

Wednesday, October 26, 7–8 pm  

### At Home in Chicago, A Living History of Domestic Architecture

Author Patrick Cannon shares highlights from his book of Chicago's most striking homes.

Wednesday, November 2, 7–8 pm  

### From Uptown Girls to Downton Abbey: How Gilded Age Heiresses Invaded the British Aristocracy

Anglophile and former U.K. resident Claire Evans shares tales of U.S. socialites who traded their family's money for a title.

Thursday, November 3, 1–2 pm 

### Concert: Singer-Songwriter Kraig Kenning

Award-winning acoustic guitarist Kraig Kenning performs contemporary folk, blues, and roots rock.

Sunday, November 6, 1–2 pm 

### Reluctant Princess, Diana of Wales

In full costume as Diana, historical storyteller Megan Wells recounts her tale of monarchy and celebrity.

Tuesday, November 8, 1–2 pm  

### Make Ravioli & Gnocchi with Chef Kristyn Slick

Learn to make delicious recipes for pasta night. Recipes sent in advance.

Tuesday, November 15, 7–8 pm 

### Shakespeare Project of Chicago presents *The Comedy of Errors*

Two sets of identical twins are accidentally separated at birth, leading to mistaken identities, mishaps, and other farcical misadventures.

Monday, November 21, 6:30–9 pm 🏛️

## Illinois Libraries Present: Autumn Author Events

Log in for live events with celebrated authors and cultural influencers.

*These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries. Funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

### A Conversation with Marlee Matlin: From Oscar to West Wing and Beyond

Wednesday, September 14, 7–8 pm 🗣️

### Two-time National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward

Wednesday, October 12, 7–8 pm 🗣️

### 'Order of the Good Death' founder Caitlin Doughty

Wednesday, November 16, 7–8 pm 🗣️

## Discussion Groups & Meetups

### English Language Learners Conversation Group

Practice your English conversation skills with a librarian and other non-native English speakers.

Tuesdays, 11 am–12 pm 🗣️

September 6 & 20, October 4 & 18, November 1 & 15

### Book Discussion with Judy Levin

Read and discuss intriguing selections beyond the best sellers.

Thursdays, 10–11:30 am 🗣️

September 8: *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead

October 13: *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris

November 10: *The Anomaly* by Hervé Le Tellier

### Great Decisions Discussion Group

Professor Gary Midkiff leads a discussion on topics from the Foreign Policy Association briefing book. Choose from Friday afternoons or Wednesday mornings, online or in person.

Fridays, 1–3 pm 🗣️ 🏛️

September 9, October 14, November 11

Wednesdays, 10:30 am–12:30 pm 🗣️ 🏛️

September 21, October 19, November 16

### Own Voices Book Discussion

Read and discuss works by authors from marginalized or under-represented groups who write about their own experiences and perspectives.

Wednesdays, 7–8 pm 🏛️

September 14: *The Far Field* by Madhuri Vijay

November 9: *A Woman Is No Man* by Etaf Rum

### Thirsty Thursdays: Books on Tap

For readers in their 20s and 30s. See [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) for details and signup.

Thursdays, 6–8 pm 🏛️ The Chatter Box, Long Grove

September 15, October 20, November 17

### Games for Grown-ups

Play tabletop games together online or in the library. Open to adults and high school students of all skill levels.

Sundays, 12:30–4:30 pm 🗣️ 🏛️

September 18, October 9, October 23, November 13

### Must-Read Nonfiction Discussion

Meets monthly to discuss real-life stories that are engaging, informative, and important.

Mondays, 7–8 pm 🗣️

September 19: *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting* by Lisa Genova

October 17: *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy* by Nathaniel Philbrick

November 21: *Three Girls from Bronzeville: A Uniquely American Memoir of Race, Fate, and Sisterhood* by Dawn Turner





### Memory Café

Offering individuals with memory loss and their caregivers an opportunity for connection and conversation.

Thursdays, 2–3 pm 🏛️ Community Arts Center, 225 McHenry Road, Buffalo Grove

September 22, October 27

### Reel Talk Movie Discussion

Check out or stream the film with your library card in advance, then log in to discuss.

Friday, 3:30–4:30 pm 📺

September 23: *Meek's Cutoff* (PG)

October 21: *Barracuda* (NR)

November 18: *The Secret of Kells* (NR)

### Off the Hook: Knit & Crochet Group

Craft in the company of other crafters, online.

Mondays, 7–8:30 pm 📺

September 26, October 24, November 28

### Novel Night Book Discussion

Read and discuss captivating fiction you might have missed.

Tuesdays, 7–8:15 pm 📺

September 27: *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez ★

November 29: TBD

### World Language Movie Discussion

View the movie on your own in advance, then join a discussion with fellow international cinema fans.

Wednesday, October 26, 7–8 pm 📺

## Technology, Business, & Career Development

### Microsoft Excel

Choose just the sessions that interest you.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm 🏛️

September 6: Basics

September 13: Formulas & Functions

September 20: Charts & Graphs

September 27: Pivot Tables (Advanced)

October 4: VLookup (Advanced)

### Microsoft Word

Choose just the sessions that interest you.

Thursdays, 7–8:30 pm 🏛️

September 22: Basics

September 29: Formatting (Intermediate)

October 6: Working with Objects

October 20: Collaboration & Mail Merge



### SCORE 1-on-1 Business Mentoring

Get free expert advice to launch your business or to help your small business grow. Appointments required.

September 8, October 13, November 10 📺 🏛️

### Developing an Effective Home-Based Business

Learn to successfully manage the challenges of being a solopreneur, balance work and life, and connect with a support community.

Thursday, September 22, 6:30–8 pm 📺

### Using Job Boards to Get Hired

Insight for new graduates and seasoned job seekers alike about searching and applying through sites such as College Grad, Indeed, USA Jobs, and LinkedIn.

Thursday, October 20, 6:30–7:30 pm 📺 🏛️

### Microsoft PowerPoint Ready to Go

Learn to create a basic presentation.

Thursday, October 27, 7–8:30 pm 🏛️

### Microsoft PowerPoint Next Steps

Explore advanced techniques including transitions and animations, timing, and exporting as video.

Thursday, November 3, 7–8:30 pm 🏛️

### Improve Your Business Writing

Learn the “5 C’s” that get others to read, understand, enjoy, and agree with your writing. Presented by the Lake Cook Career Collaborative, local public libraries with expertise and resources for career development. Learn more at [CareerCollab.org](http://CareerCollab.org)

Saturday, November 5, 1–2:30 pm 📺

### Free Tools for Nonprofits

Visibility, equipment, and money! Every nonprofit needs them. Learn how to get them in a budget-friendly way.

Tuesday, November 15, 10:30–11:30 am 📺 🏛️

## Featured Resources *for teens*



### STUDY SPACES

Book a study room at the library. Reserve online at [VAPLD.info/reserve-room](https://vapl.org/reserve-room) or on the Vernon Area Library app or call 224-543-1486. Outdoor spaces with shade, tables and Wi-Fi will stay up until the weather changes, no reservation needed.



### TUTOR.COM

Free with your library card! Get homework help, papers reviewed, or prep for the SAT, ACT, AP, or other tests. Log in with your library card: [VAPLD.info/tutor](https://vapl.org/tutor)



### TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Virtual volunteering makes it easy to earn service hours and give back in a way that works for you. The library volunteer program for grades 7-12 is completely flexible: no application, no training, and no minimum hours. Begin at [VAPLD.info/TeenVolunteers](https://vapl.org/TeenVolunteers)

## Classes & Events *for teens*

Note location with each item (🏠 indoors, 🌿 outdoors, 📺 online). Events may move to Zoom if required by public health conditions. All events are free and open to all. Sign up (required) at [VAPLD.info/calendar](https://vapl.org/calendar) or 224-543-1486.

### Who is BTS? • grades 6-8

Learn about K-pop and the biggest pop group in the world! Crash course covers trivia, choreography, and fandom.

Wednesday, September 14, 7-8:30 pm 🏠

### Teen Take & Make Craft Kits grades 6-12

Reserve beginning 30 days in advance; pick up on the date indicated.

September 16: Mini Library

October 21: Moss Wall Art

November 18: Mod Podge

### Off the Page: A Teen Book Club grades 8-12

Participants get a copy of the book to keep and custard (our treat!)

Mondays, 7-8:15 pm 🏠 Culver's, Lincolnshire

September 19: *Woven in Moonlight* by Isabel Ibañez ★

October 17: *Wilder Girls* by Rory Power

November 21: *Messy Roots* by Laura Gao

### Upcycled Art • grades 6-12

Make art using recycled materials.

Monday, October 3, 7-8 pm 🏠

### Chess Challenge Meetup grades 5-8

Sharpen your skills with chess games.

Monday, October 10, 7-8:15 pm 🏠

### Rebecca Caudill Award Book Discussion • grades 6-8

Read and discuss *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston. Pick up a copy (to keep) at the Youth Desk.

Thursday, November 3, 7-8 pm 🏠

### Parent Education: How to Apply for Scholarships • teens & adults

Certified College Planner Lora Georgieva helps clarify the process of applying for college admission and financial aid.

Tuesday, November 8, 7-8 pm 🏠

### Make Ravioli & Gnocchi with Chef Kristyn Slick • teens & adults

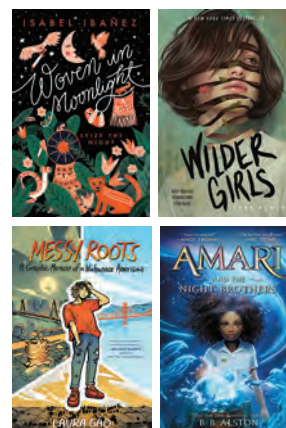
Get the recipes, then cook along with the chef and friends on Zoom.

Tuesday, November 15, 7-8 pm 📺

### Sphero Battle Bots • grades 6-8

Create armor for your Sphero robot, then challenge your friends to a battle.

Monday, November 28, 7-8:15 pm 🏠



## Featured Resources *for kids*



### LIBBY KIDS

Browse the huge selection of children's e-books and audiobooks available on Libby. Choose from Caudill, Bluestem and Monarch Award winners, recommended reads by grade, and more. Read or listen using the Libby app or send to your Kindle.  
[VAPLD.info/libby](http://VAPLD.info/libby)



### SCHOLASTIC GO

Make homework easier with reliable info on core subject areas: Scholastic GO! provides students with user-friendly text and multimedia. Access anywhere, anytime with your library card.  
[VAPLD.info/ScholasticGo](http://VAPLD.info/ScholasticGo)



### SCHOLASTIC TEACHABLES

Download and print teacher-created lesson plans and activity sheets from a reputable educational source you can trust. Available for Pre-K to grade 8. Log in with your library card at guides.  
[VAPLD.info/teachables](http://VAPLD.info/teachables)

## Classes & Events *for kids*

Note location with each item (🏠 indoors, 🌿 outdoors, 📺 online). Events may move indoors or to Zoom if required by weather or public health conditions. Free and open to all. Sign up is required unless otherwise specified. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar) or 224-543-1486.

### Hispanic Heritage Month ★

Look for programs marked with a star that celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15.

### Take & Make Kits • all ages

Stop by and pick up instructions and supplies to make a new craft each month. No signup required. Available while supplies last beginning:

September 1: Growing Like a Sunflower  
September 15: Hispanic Heritage Celebration ★  
October 7: Diwali  
October 21: Halloween  
November 11: Paper Cupcake Garland

### Lego Master Builders • grades K–5

Kids and adults collaborate on a challenge, then stay to free build.

Wednesday, September 7 🏠  
Grades K–2: 4:30–5:30 pm  
Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

### Family Concert: Bill Brickey all ages

Enjoy a morning with this award-winning musician and music teacher of Old Town School Wiggleworms fame.

Saturday, September 10, 11–11:45 am 🌿

### ¡Lotería! Family Game Night ★ grades K–5 with an adult

Learn some Spanish words from Disney's *Coco* as your family plays this bingo-type game.

Thursday, September 15, 6:30–7:30 pm 🏠

### Exploring Great Artists: Frida Kahlo ★ • grades K–5

Learn about the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, then create a mixed-media masterpiece inspired by her self-portrait, "The Frame."

Tuesday, September 20 🏠  
Grades K–2 with an adult: 4:30–5:15 pm  
Grades 3–5: 7–8:15 pm

### Bluestem Award Book Discussion grades 3–5 with an adult

We're kicking off this new quarterly parent-child book group with an award-winning book about the love of reading: *The Losers Club* by Andrew Clements.


Thursday, September 22, 7–8 pm 🏠





### Cook Along with Chef Kristyn grades K–5

Follow along live online to create delicious dishes. Receive the recipes when you sign up.

Fridays, 7–8 pm 

Sept 23: Caramel Apples & Apple Pie

Oct 21: Spooky Burgers & Shakes

Nov 11: Thanksgiving Sweets

### STEAM Fair • grades K–5

Rotate through science, technology, engineering, art and math stations featuring “take-apart tech,” robots, 3D printing and more. Featuring special guests from Discovery Center Museum.

Saturday, September 24, 11 am–12:30 pm or 2–3:30 pm 


### Cartooning Workshop with Mark Anderson • grades 2–5

Draw mysterious mummies, dangerous dinosaurs and terrific treasures.

Thursday, September 29, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm 

### Animal Crossing Open Play (Halloween Edition) • all ages

Visit the Vernon Area Animal Crossing Fans Facebook group for the Dodo Code, then fly over for fun and giveaways!

Thursday, October 6, 7–9 pm  On your Nintendo Switch

### Chess Mini-Games • grades 2–4

Get a handle on chess basics, strategies and techniques by playing smaller chess games. Beginners welcome.

Monday, October 10, 4:30–6 pm 


### Chinese Calligraphy Workshop grades K–5

Explore Chinese culture through calligraphy and folklore with students from Stevenson High School Chinese Honor Society.

Wednesday, October 12, 5–6:30 pm or 7–8:30 pm 

### Minecraft Mania • grades 3–5

Work with other kids to complete quests using MinecraftEdu.

Thursday, October 13, 4:30–5:30 pm or 6–7 pm 

### Family Concert: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet ★ • all ages

Wrap up Hispanic Heritage Month with these longtime library favorites performing songs in English and Spanish.

Saturday, October 15, 11–11:45 am 

### Live Art Demonstration: Vejigante Masks ★ • all ages

Drop by to watch artist Juan Ramon, Jr. create a *vejigante*, a colorful paper-mache mask worn in Puerto Rican festival celebrations. No signup required.

Sat., Oct 15, 12–2 pm  Library Café

### K9 Reading Buddies • grades 1–5

A trained therapy dog listens patiently while your student reads aloud. Sign up for a 15-minute spot beginning 30 days before the program by calling 224-543-1486 or visiting the Youth Desk.

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:30 pm 

October 19, November 16

### Create Art with Miss Jane grades K–5

Follow along step-by-step to create a painting of cats that are black and white, day and night.

Tuesday, October 25 

Grades K–2 with an adult: 4:30–5:15 pm

Grades 3–5: 7–8:15 pm

### Spooky Critters with the Frog Lady grades K–5

Get an up-close look at real spiders, toads and lizards—then decide for yourself if they're spooky after all!

Thursday, October 27, 7–8 pm 

### Folk Art Exhibit Tour • grades K–5

Educators from the Dunn Museum in Libertyville take us on a virtual tour of their upcoming exhibit of Folk Art.

Tuesday, November 1, 7–8 pm 

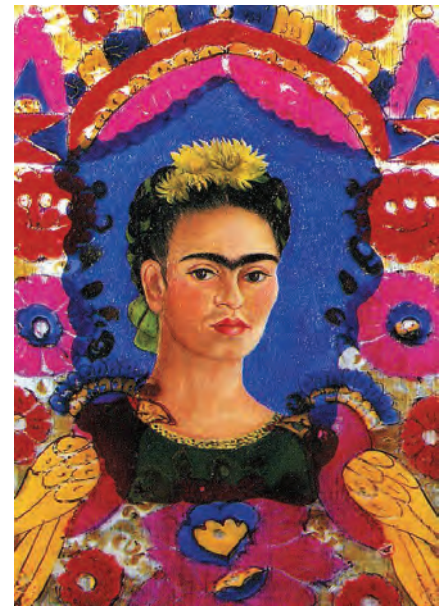
### Mindfulness Zen Garden grades K–5

Begin with guided meditation to stop, focus, breathe, and be, then create a mini Zen garden.

Monday, November 7 

Grades K–2 with an adult: 4:30–5:15 pm

Grades 3–5: 7–8:15 pm



Exploring Great Artists: Frida Kahlo

### T-Rexplorers • grades K–5

Celebrate Dinovember with this interactive program featuring authentic dinosaur bones.

Thursday, November 10, 7–8 pm 

### Lego Robotics • grades K–5

Build and program interactive models using LEGO Education WeDo software.

Monday, November 14 

Grades K–2 with an adult: 4:30–5:30 pm

Grades 3–5: 7–8 pm

### Our Solar System • grades K–5

Discovery Center Museum educators lead us on a virtual trip to nearby planets, our closest star, and NASA.

Friday, November 18, 7–8 pm 


### Bad Kitty STEM Storytime grades K–2 with an adult

This storytime features a “Bad Kitty” story about Thanksgiving and science activities related to the story.

Tuesday, November 22, 4:30–5:15 pm 

### Sphero Battle Bots • grades 3–5

Create armor for your Sphero robot, then challenge your friends to a battle.

Monday, November 28, 4:30–5:45 pm 



LQ interview:

# Author Ruth Spiro

Ruth Spiro is the author of the bestselling *Baby Loves Science* board book series and a STEM-themed picture book series, *Made by Maxine*, named a “Best STEM Book” by the National Science Teaching Association. She writes books that inspire kids to observe the world, ask questions, and dream big! She lives in Deerfield, Illinois.

**Your *Baby Loves...* series covers some pretty sophisticated topics! What inspired the idea to create board books about STEM and political science?**

In 2010, *The New York Times* ran the article “Picture Books No Longer a Staple for Children,” about a substantial drop in picture book sales. Some believed this was due to the choice some parents were making to start their very young children on more “advanced” level books like early readers and chapter books. It occurred to me that these parents might be looking for elevated content — books that were fun to read but also age-appropriate and educational.

I think the reason my *Baby Loves Science* books have become popular is that they work on several levels. They’re beautiful to look at and appeal to even very young babies who do not yet understand the words. (Thanks to the brilliant illustrators, Irene Chan and Greg Paprocki!) As children grow and develop, they can relate the concept to a real-world observation or experience. Importantly, the books also appeal to parents and caregivers because they feel they’re learning something, too.

Similarly, the *Baby Loves Political Science* books felt important in the time leading up to the 2020 election. With so much going on in the media, my editor and I discussed the need for books that explain these ideas in simple terms for very young children. This collection includes *Democracy*, which is about how elections work, as well as *Congress*, *Justice*, and *The Presidency*. As we head into election season once again, I think these books will be helpful both at home and the library.

**Your process must involve quite a bit of research. Where do you begin?**

Once I decide on a topic, I’ll read books and articles, watch videos, talk with experts and even take field trips if possible. While working on *Baby Loves Quarks*, I visited the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia and toured an actual particle accelerator.

Throughout the writing process, I seek feedback to help refine the story and its relationship to the science concepts. I call upon expert reviewers, including retired physicist Dr. Fred Bortz, to check both the text and illustrations for accuracy. While the *Baby Loves Science* books may appear simple, they’re the result of collaboration between an entire team, because we all believe that our young audience deserves nothing less.

**How do you make those topics accessible for little ones?**

My editorial priority is always the child. First and foremost, the books we share with our little ones should be age-appropriate, visually appealing, and fun to read. Then, if I can find a way to include even the smallest nugget of science while also producing a giggle or two, I’ve done my job!

I start with a list of things that are familiar to a baby or toddler — activities like watching a bird fly, building a tower with blocks, and dropping crackers from a high chair just to watch them fall.

Then I think about how they relate to what feels like a complex scientific concept. Without this context, the idea of “science” is too abstract for a small child. But when introduced in a story about something familiar, it becomes more accessible. That real-world experience becomes a key, unlocking the door to the science behind it.

There’s actually a growing body of research on this topic, mostly relating to the fact that babies are natural scientists. For example, a study at Johns Hopkins revealed that before their first birthday, babies intuitively understand that if you drop a ball it will fall, rather than hover in the air. This is physics and gravity! So rather than talking about babies learning science principles, I prefer to reframe the conversation as babies *discovering* science principles.

**I imagine adults have plenty to learn from these books, too. What’s something surprising that you have learned while working on the series?**

Writing about science for a very young audience has inspired me to look at the field with a fresh perspective. When I was in school, I thought that “science” meant memorizing facts and formulas. Working on this series, I’ve discovered that science is so much more than that because it explains the interconnectedness of our world.

The second thing I learned is that it’s never too early to introduce children to this way of thinking. I received an email from a parent who’d been reading *Baby Loves Aerospace Engineering* with her daughter. She mentioned that they’d be going on an airplane soon, and her daughter began talking about how an airplane’s wings do not flap because it has engines to lift it into the air. The little girl may not yet understand the physics of flight, but she does know there’s a difference between a bird’s wings and an airplane’s wings, which is a brilliant beginning.

**What do you hope children and families take away from your books?**

A child’s job is to explore and experiment, because that’s how they figure out how the world works. I’m not advocating for teaching young children about science; I view it as encouraging exploration and curiosity while introducing some basic science vocabulary along the way.

My hope is that my books will spark an interest and then become jumping-off points for continued learning. Even if the science is new to parents, they can have fun learning right along with their children. If they don’t know the answer to a question, it’s fine to admit that and then say, “Let’s find out together!” By modeling curiosity and a willingness to investigate, they’re encouraging their child’s sense of wonder as well.

I also hope these books help parents and caregivers slow down, appreciate all the little things that children find fascinating, and experience them together. When we view the world from their perspective, every day brings opportunities for discovering something new.

**What’s next?**

I’m pleased to share that between 2023 and 2024 I’ll have seven new books coming out, including two additions to the core *Baby Loves Science* board book collection. The topics haven’t been revealed yet, but I promise they’ll be worth the wait. I’m also working on a brand-new picture book series based on *Baby Loves...* but for early elementary readers who are ready to learn more about their favorite topics. In the coming months I’ll also be sharing more about three exciting new picture books. These are departures from my other books in that two are rhyming and one is lyrical and quite special, a “book of my heart.”

Reach Ruth via her website, [RuthSpiro.com](http://RuthSpiro.com), or on Twitter or Instagram @ruthspiro.





## Featured Resources *for birth to pre-k*



### LOTE ONLINE FOR KIDS

New! Develop language and vocabulary through storytelling with digital picture books in Languages Other Than English (LOTE). Choose from books in more than 50 languages, each with an accompanying English translation. [VAPLD.info/LOTE](http://VAPLD.info/LOTE)



### READ-ALONGS

"Read-alongs" are print books with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Press play to listen and follow along, then switch to learning mode for even more literacy learning. Find this new collection in the library Picture Book Room under the TV screen.



### LITTLE PAGES & PLAY BOX

Sign up for this free subscription service for kids ages 0-2 from your library's early learning experts. Then stop by monthly to pick up a package containing a crafty play experience and books checked out to your library card. [VAPLD.info/LPPB](http://VAPLD.info/LPPB)

## Classes & Events *for birth to pre-k*

Note location with each item ( indoors, outdoors, online). Events may move indoors or to Zoom if required by weather or public health conditions. Free and open to all. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar) or call 224-543-1486.

### Drop In

*It's easier than ever to make storytime part of your family's weekly routine.*

*Drop in for the session that's right for your child's age, claim an entry ticket when you arrive, then join the fun!*

*Two sessions each day let us keep the group size small while meeting demand.*

#### Baby Rhyme Storytime • 0–14 months

Grow your baby's brain with songs, rhymes, and books with Miss Kelsey.

Wednesdays, 9:30–10 am or 11–11:30 am

September 7, 14, 28; October 5, 12; November 2, 9, 30

#### Wiggling Ones • 12–24 months

Add 30 minutes of joy to your week. Giggle, sing, and play along with your little one, other families, and Miss Julia.

Tuesdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

September 6, 13, 20; October 4, 11, 18; November 1, 8, 15

#### Together 2s & 3s • ages 2–3

Share stories and learn sign language with Miss Sarah. Activities center around a letter of the day.

Mondays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

Sept. 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 24; November 7, 14, 21

#### Preschool Storytime • ages 3–5

Get ready for school with Miss Emily by practicing the language, listening, and pre-reading skills needed for kindergarten. Children attend without an adult.

Thursdays, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am

September 1, 8, 15; October 6, 13, 20; November 3, 10, 17

## Sign Up in Advance

For these storytimes and events, sign up in advance at [VAPLD.info/calendar](http://VAPLD.info/calendar), by telephone at 224-543-1486, or at any public service desk in the library.

### Sun & Fun Storytime • ages 0–6

An outdoor storytime with tunes, dancing, rhymes, and read-alouds. Sign up for each session separately.

9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 🌿

Friday, September 2

Saturday, September 17

### Goodnight Tales for Tots • ages 0–3

Miss Nessa helps us wind down our day with calming books and songs. Sign up for each month separately.

Tuesdays, 6–6:30 pm 📺

September 6, 13, 20; October 4, 11, 18; November 1, 15, 29

### Evening Stories with Miss Emily • age 3–grade 2

Put on pajamas and relax with a bedtime story. Sign up for each month separately.

Wednesdays, 7–7:30 pm 📺

September 7, 14, 21; October 5, 12, 19; November 2, 9, 16

### Family Concert series • all ages

Bring the whole family and a blanket to sit on and enjoy a fun outdoor concert at the library. Signup required.

Saturdays, 11–11:45 am 🌿

September 10: Bill Brickey

October 15: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet ★

#### Parent Education:

#### Early Childhood Questions & Concerns

For parents of children ages 0–3. Do you have questions about early childhood programs, special education services, or your child's development? Get answers from local school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists in this program with the Exceptional Learners Collaborative Early Childhood Assessment Team. Learn more about early intervention programs and the transition to school based-services.

Tuesday, September 27, 10–11 am 🏛️

### Mini Math Magicians • ages 3–5

Explore math concepts through books, games, and activities with preschool pro Miss Emily.

Thursdays, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

September 29, October 27



Family Concert: Alina Celeste & Mi Amigo Hamlet

### Bilingual Storytime • ages 0–6

Read stories and sing songs in English and another language.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

Spanish: September 30 ★ and November 18

Mandarin: October 21

### Science Detectives • ages 3–6

STEM-themed stories and activities with Miss Lisa Marie.

Fridays, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

October 7, November 4

### Music & Movement Storytime • ages 0–6

Read, sing, and dance together with Miss Julia.

Saturday, October 8, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

### Halloween for Littles • ages 0–3

A not-scary storytime plus a trick-or-treating parade through the library. Costumes and siblings are welcome.

Wednesday, October 26, 9:30–10 am or 10:30–11 am 🏛️

### Día de los Muertos Storytime ★ • ages 0–6

Celebrate *Día de los Muertos* with stories, songs, and rhymes in English and Spanish with Miss Nessa.

Friday, October 28, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

### Ukulele Sing-Along with Miss Julia • ages 0–6

Saturday, November 12, 10–10:30 am 🏛️

### Bad Kitty STEM Storytime • ages 3–5

Featuring a “Bad Kitty” story about Thanksgiving and science activities related to the story.

Tuesday, November 22, 1:30–2 pm 🏛️

### Sunshine Squad • ages 0–6

Stories and activities focused on making the world a kinder, sunnier place for everyone.

Wednesday, November 23, 10–10:45 am 🏛️

**Vernon Area Public Library**  
300 Olde Half Day Rd.  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

## Connect

### Main

300 Olde Half Day Road,  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

847-634-3650

Text: 847-565-6457

[www.VAPLD.info](http://www.VAPLD.info)

### Annex

4 Indian Creek Road,  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

## Open

Monday–Thursday 9 AM–9 PM

Friday–Saturday 9 AM–5 PM

Sunday 10 AM–5 PM

Before-hours access is available for people who prefer a “mask required” environment. See website for info about special operating hours.

## Closed

Sunday, September 4

Monday, September 5

Wednesday, November 23 – closing early at 5 PM

Thursday, November 24



## ► Check this out

*Twenty new pollinator-friendly native wildflower plants were added to the library butterfly garden this summer. Many thanks to Didier Farms for the donation and library volunteer Nancy M. for coordinating the project.*